

National Assembly Report 2015

The meeting was declared quorate which required 54 voting members to be present from the 219 groups, intergroups and board members who are eligible to vote.

A very heartwarming sharing of how long people in the room had been abstinent showed the length of recovery in the room.

There was very clear and sobering introduction by Sue (the OAGB chair) about how the meeting will run and the purpose of the meeting. This set an excellent tone for the day and was really focused on the primary purpose of the fellowship that is to give service to reach out to the compulsive overeater. There were announcements regarding a we care book and sponsorship list which would be available.

The special rules of order and the agenda were adopted by the meeting which enables business to be conducted democratically throughout the day. The minutes approval committee reviewed the minutes from last year and there were no objections at the meeting to the minutes so they were approved. Two group reps offered to be on the minutes approval committee for next year along with Elena, Linda and Rachel. No matters arising from the previous meeting were raised (other than those on the agenda already).

The meeting then moved on to board reports – questions from the floor for five minutes each. Step-by-step volunteers have not been responded to yet but this will be addressed by Rachel over the weekend (and she apologized for not emailing them during the week). PI sub-committee members were thanked for their service and the importance of people on the committees was mentioned. Question regarding whether Jacqueline should liaise with the sub-committee – response was to talk after the meeting.

- Why is money for delegate assistance paid in advance, there is a risk of people not attending?
 - There is a procedure in place – applications are signed by two group/IG members with a breakdown of costs, each is reviewed by the board so they feel this is enough of a check. Many groups couldn't afford to pay in advance and then claim back.
- Literature accounts £14000 in stock assets, how much is written off due to new editions being published?
 - Stock has increased because we now have storage space. Each piece of literature is reviewed every 7 years so we can calculate how many of each item we need to bring si up to the next renewal date and buy in bulk. Similarly buying books in quantities of 250 rather than 50 si saving money. Only £20 of unsalable stock to be written off this year. The review times have now been changed to every 9 years.
- What does sales-AA, sales-WSO and sales-OAGB mean?
 - Books bought from AA, from WSO and those printed in this country. We don't make money on books from AA but do on the other two.
- Would it be possible to get literature in other languages in the UK?

- They would be best ordered directly from region 9 or the relevant national service board.
- Has the sales of leaflets reduced because we have a lot of unsold leaflets in our group?
 - Nothing brought to my attention about a dip in sales. Not buying the leaflets that are in the newcomers pack as much because the packs are sold in greater quantities (these leaflets we do print in the UK). Slower selling leaflets are bought in rather than printed anyway.
- What is/was the state of the 07000 line?
 - The number was changed and the change didn't go through correctly because we had a very old account on old systems. This meant that the old message couldn't be changed easily due to software problems at their end. There is a price rise involved to change the provision and Rachel is investigating exactly what we want in future as the current service will not be available in it's present form.
- There is no explanation of how OAGB fits in the region 9 on the website and it would be nice to have a clearer hyperlink to region 9 (and other regions).
 - This is on the board job list and hasn't been able to be addressed this year due to the shortage of board members.
- Is there any intention to have additional regions?
 - If there were more people at the assemblies, then maybe it could naturally split.
- There is a lack of funds to do things with meeting lists so why are we sitting on £100,000 or so? (This is at world service level).
 - The contributions from individual groups is down and we are not really self-supporting; this money was partly because of a large individual contribution (or two?). Therefore an appeal was sent out to groups for greater contributions.
- Is it possible to investigate whether we can get money in the UK from Kindle purchases?
 - Maybe the new literature committee could approach WSO and ask for a percentage of UK sales?

- Could we have some examples of things that the board cannot address as it is currently undermanned?
 - Sue answered that perhaps PI could be more. Sue says that they work hard to keep things ticking over but maybe there is a lack of enthusiasm now that they have been doing it for nearly 5 years with only 5/14 members. Rachel also responded that due to personal circumstances and the weight of work for the board that they cannot address these things. She mentioned that some of the things that were listed earlier haven't been addressed although she was fired up to do it: literature in other languages and website improvements. Board needs

support especially from those who want to do service but don't meet the requirements yet.

The next item on the agenda is a resolution and Sue is abdicating the chair for this section of the meeting. She has proposed this as an individual member and the board agree that she is able to do this. Sue then spoke to the motion and normal parliamentary debate proceeded. Questions around power issues if there was a paid member? This resolution is just to investigate (no it's not! – it's actually to investigate and then appoint if deemed necessary). They would be an employee so they would have no power over the fellowship, just as the existing employee has no power. Question over whether it will encourage people to step up as the workload is less or whether people won't stand because they feel that the need is less.

The resolution to investigate and then if deemed appropriate, appoint a paid employee was passed with a 2/3 majority or higher and so is binding on the board.

The meeting then moved onto elections for new board members. All three- Alan, Hilary and Rachel were successful.

There was a discussion about OAGB and the service structure in the UK. Key points from this:

- It's too big a commitment, especially 4 years
 - OAGB rota for members to visit intergroups
 - Publicize meetings to encourage visitors
 - Job specs written and made clearer
 - Publicize what board members get back from service
 - Changing the mentality and culture with sponsors expecting sponsees to do service, take a sponsee with you to an intergroup meeting
 - There should be a linear path with people only going up one level
 - People feel distant, not really knowing about it
 - Move meetings around the countries and actively encourage people to come and watch, sit in the middle and have spectators around the edge
 - Increase communication about what is done and what could be done
 - Broadcast board meetings to allow people to watch and/or take part
 - Adding to meeting format for people, something about service and/or poster for meetings about service
 - It all works really well at the moment but we scare people into service by saying it will close and then people step up. Question about whether this might be healthy and that it is healthy to step away when it's time to
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- Carry the message more effectively at group level – maybe avoid using the abbreviations so much?
 - Self-propagating problem with nobody in so many intergroups on the board, still needs to be raised and discussed at meetings
 - Better mentoring system for people who want to do service, a feeling that you will be actively supported if you step up

- Membership retention in OA, over 50% of people at NA for the first time. Have we got enough people around for long enough with enough service to support having a board?
- Go back to basics, what do our members want?
- Blog of what you did this week from each OAGB board member
- It doesn't help that people aren't standing for a particular position and might not get what they want/feel comfortable with
- Workshops before intergroup meetings
- Contacts who have been board members to speak to
- Maybe disbanding OAGB would bring it back stronger as it would stop people taking it for granted and it might be shocking
- Legal structure of having a limited company is better for employing people

Two bids for hosting the NA next year:

Manchester-northwest

- Time for us to host it
- Service opportunities for our members
- Love for the strong recovery in this room to be present there
- Central within the UK
- Open to feedback and hotel chain open to feedback
- Refurbished and brand new
- Same deal as this year for price
- Loads of parking
- Entertainment for Saturday night offered
- Same contact and they already know a lot from this year
- Committee based mainly from a strong meeting
- There is appetite for service from all the meetings in the area

Glasgow-caledonian

- Intergroup has grown over the last 4-5 years
- We have a board member
- Energy within their intergroup
- Shuttle service from the airport
- Beautiful views from the hotel
- Catering wise they have experience
- Train station less than a mile's walk
- Large conference room is ours and only other meeting rooms are smaller

The Glasgow bid was approved.

The chairs took questions on their reports in the pack.

There was a discussion around social media and there was a feeling that a Facebook group was too easy to break your anonymity.

Stuart (chair of OASEE Intergroup)